



THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

The ENCOURAGER
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31 YEARS IN SCHOOL !!!

AND IT WAS UPHILL BOTH WAYS TOO!

Actually that bit might be misleading. Not the years but the 'uphill both ways' part—though no effort is without work! The editor was in Stayner for a Monday Night Childrens Meeting a couple of weeks ago. And Bill said, "You know - you have been coming here to speak to the kids for 31 years!" Those words rather shocked me since I realized it was true enough but 3 decades+ sounds like a long time. However what really impresses me is the kind of 'stick-to-it-tiveness' that keeps a group of faithful folks going year after year and decade after decade!

The name of the school is Byng Public School. The Community is a very small town. The night I was there recently—the drive over was an experience with drifting snow, the parking lot was heaped with snowbanks but there were about 35 children, 6 visitor adults and a nice group of the believers to help.

HOW IT GOT STARTED

What got them going was the fact that Bill and Betty Shaw had young children growing up and they had a exercise about them and their friends hearing a clear message of Salvation. Their interest was both for the children and their parents in their home area. In the beginning they only had one car so Bill would take Betty and family to the school then go out into the community and gather up children. There were 7 or 8 teenaged girls he picked up (couldn't do that these days). They would pile into the car laughing and screaming at each other and Bill would sometimes wonder why he was doing this. And make no mistake, he wasn't doing this alone! His marriage partner was an indispensable help in all of this - both in encouragement to keep at it and also in all the other 'little things' that must be done! And there were others!

HOW GOD BLESSED

They faithfully plodded on & God worked and from that group of girls—over the years— four professed to be saved and that made it well worthwhile. Some of their children eventually came to Childrens Meetings also. Most years the numbers ran between 30 - 40 children though there were a couple of years it was down in the 20s. Overall attendance has been quite good with a few parents in attendance most weeks. At times the numbers surged up into the 80s at the end of the year but they didn't come out regularly. Bill was always pleased when others would drive over and help speak on occasion but the day to day, week to week work was done by the local believers who faithfully joined in the work.

When the work started— the effort ran from September to April but the last 7 - 8 years it has only been from January to April. They found that with too many school breaks and interruptions—attendance dropped off, yet at times, there would be new people start who had heard about it by word of mouth.

IT WILL BE WORTH IT ALL

A great encouragement was experienced one night when Bill was standing outside watching the children leave. A young woman came up to him and said, "You probably don't remember me." She told him her name (she was one of that car load of teenage girls he used to pick up). She related to him how that she had been saved and now her children were coming too. That brought a few tears of joy. '

WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

"Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:9

'In all labour there is profit!' Proverbs 14:23

Sad but true—sometimes they are working against us

A little boy was asked by his Sunday School teacher if he knew the Ten Commandments.

"No ma'am," came the reply,

"My dad said that I don't have to know them since they are doing away with them anyway."

